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STATE LEGISLATURE, M

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 11th March 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Travelling allowance and daily allowance granted to Government servants

* 1249 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government servants should not claim daily allowance for more than twenty days in a month and their travelling allowance should not exceed 75 per cent of their basic pay?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The answer is in the negative."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Question Nos. 1250 and 1251 can be taken up together."

Removal of untouchability

* 1250 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government have received any recommendation from the Backward Classes Commission appointed by the Government of India, regarding the uplift of Harijans and the removal of untouchability; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the State Government to implement it?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

* 1251 *Q.*—SRI O. KORAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state with reference to the answer to clause (*a*) of question No. 45 given on 4th December 1954 the quota allotted for Malabar by the State Government out of the amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the removal of untouchability and other civil disabilities in the year 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" This Government spent a sum of Rs. 1,98,432 on the construction of platforms in Harijan quarters during 1953–54 in anticipation of a half-grant from the Government of India. The amount spent in Malabar district is Rs. 13,221. The Government of India sanctioned only a total grant of Rs. 15,000 for the whole State. This Government have requested the Government of

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India to sanction the balance and their reply is awaited. The question of allotment of the Government of India grant to the districts including Malabar does not arise."

Sri O. KORAN :—" Sir, Dr. J. C. Kumarappa and other eminent persons who visited Malabar have mentioned that the conditions of Harijans in Malabar are very complicated and the problems facing them are many. In the light of these facts, the amount allotted to Malabar for Harijan improvement is very small. Will the Government consider the desirability of setting apart more amounts for Harijans in Malabar? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, the main question relates to the Government of India allotment to the Government of Madras for the construction of certain platforms, etc. We will consider the question raised by the hon. Member when the general question of allotting funds to the respective districts is taken up."

Sri M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Sir, it is an admitted fact that the present Government are taking special interest and are trying to do their utmost for the speedy advancement of the Harijans. Still no specific progress has been made because of the fact that the methods adopted by the Government such as the construction of platforms, latrines, bath rooms, etc., do not help the Harijans either to solve their problems or raise their status or help in any way towards the removal of untouchability. Will the Government therefore draw up a better programme for raising the status of the Harijans and also for removing untouchability? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Sir, I thank the hon. Member for the good words he has said about this Government but I may tell him that work on behalf of the Harijans and other Backward Classes cannot be spectacular in view of the fact that the problem is so huge and so difficult."

Stabbing of Kisan worker by name Unnarakutty

* 1252 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether proper investigation is being made into the case of Sri Unnarakutty, a Kisan worker in Atholi village, Kurumbranad taluk, Malabar, who was stabbed by a member of the Anti-Communist Front on 31st January 1955 resulting in his death; and

(*b*) if not, what action the Government are taking in the matter?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The case in question was investigated by the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Cannanore personally. As the matter is now reported to be sub judice, no further information can be given."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to state anything regarding the facts of the case but I would like to say that the public of Malabar are very anxious